

# HEROES

## CHAPTER 147 BOOM

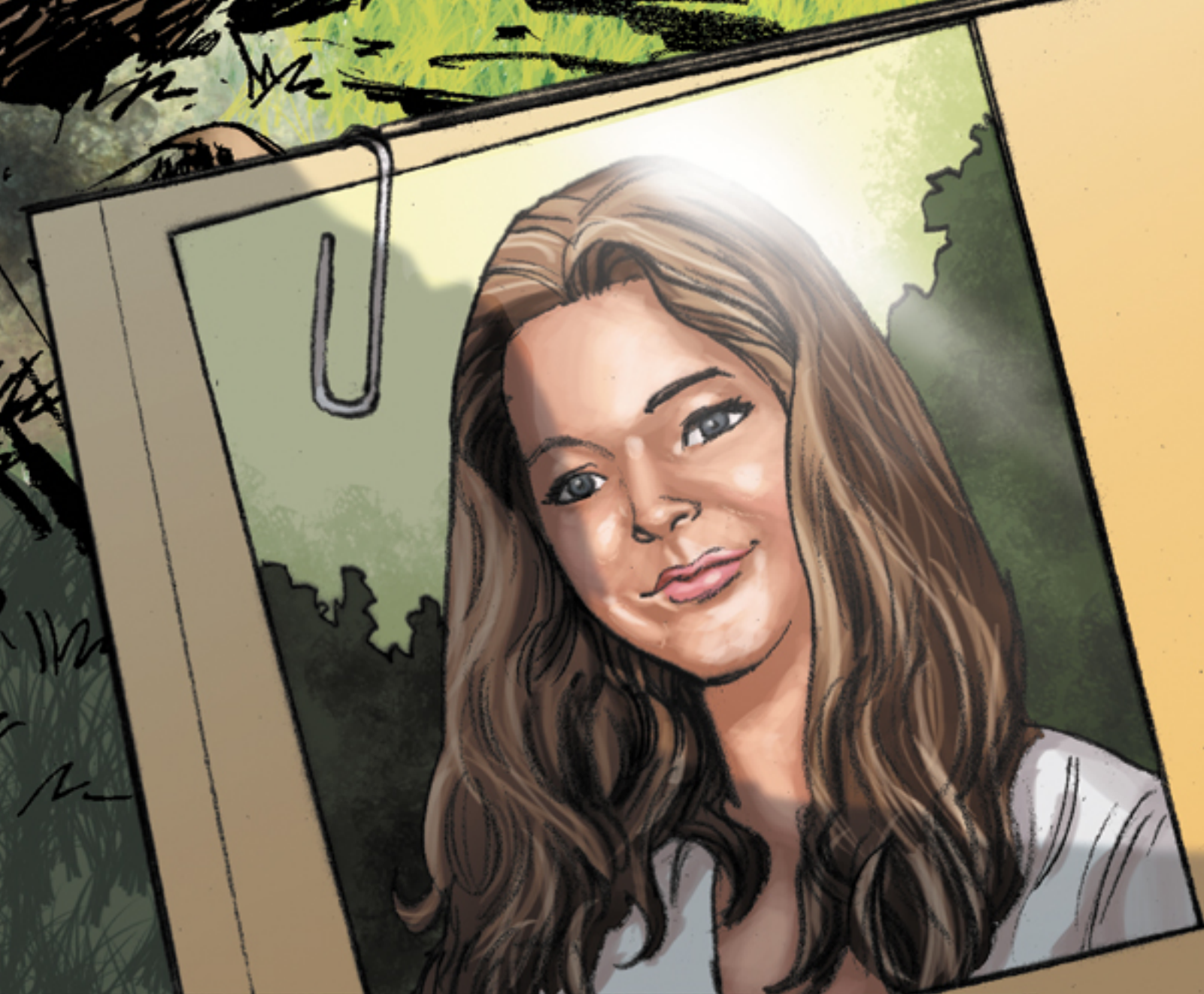
Lydia has a daughter, Amanda. A year ago, Amanda's ability manifested attracting the attention of HRG and Meredith Gordon. But with Primotech facing its own set of problems, does HRG have the necessary patience to deal with an explosive young woman?



**N**OT TOO LONG AGO, IN A QUIANT  
NEW ENGLAND TOWN.

WELL, *THAT'S*  
DISTURBING...

WHAT? NO  
PUPPY FLAMBÉS IN  
*YOUR* PAST?



NOPE, BUT  
GUESS HOW MANY  
STUFFED SUITS  
I LIT UP?

HEY, JUST TRYING  
TO LIGHTEN THE MOMENT.  
I KNOW YOU A BIT BETTER  
NOW, AND I *KNOW* YOU  
AREN'T THIS SICK.

THIS DOESN'T  
MAKE HER "SICK" NOAH.  
IT MAKES HER A LITTLE  
GIRL, A *SCARED*  
LITTLE GIRL.

SCARED LITTLE  
GIRLS HIDE UNDER  
THEIR BED.

**SERIAL KILLERS**  
TEAR APART POOR  
LITTLE...

SO MRS. STRAZZULLA, BEFORE  
AMANDA DISAPPEARED, DID  
ANYTHING ELSE...  
STRANGE HAPPEN?

...TWINKLES?

...AND THE  
ALARM CLOCK...  
OH, AND THOSE  
POOR BIRDS.

BIRDS?

WELL,  
THEY WERE  
IN THE  
TREE.

UH...  
OF COURSE.  
ANY REASON WHY  
AMANDA MIGHT BE  
ACTING OUT?

WELL,  
THERE WAS  
THE TREE.





TOO MUCH OF HER MOTHER IN HER...HER REAL MOTHER, MY SISTER; GOT PREGNANT YOUNG. RAN OFF. LYDIA WAS ALWAYS DIFFERENT, STRANGE. I SEE A LOT OF HER IN AMANDA.

...I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE HATED THE DOG.

THAT'S ONE DOG, A FEW BIRDS, SHOULD WE START LOOKING AT THE ZOO?

LIKE I SAID, DISTURBING. BUT YOU HAVE TO HAVE *FAITH*. THIS GIRL ISN'T A MONSTER. I CAN FEEL IT.

"DISTURBING" IS NAMING A PIT BULL "TWINKLES". THE POWER THIS GIRL HAS IS DOWNRIGHT SCARY.

AND I DO HAVE FAITH... IN MY INSTINCTS.

IF I TRIED THAT AT HER AGE, I WOULD HAVE BURNED THE ENTIRE HOUSE DOWN. HOW DID SHE LEARN THE CONTROL SO YOUNG?

IN MY EXPERIENCE, YOUNG WOMEN ARE STRONGER THAN WE GIVE THEM CREDIT FOR.

BUT THERE IS NO REASON THEY *HAVE* TO BE SO STRONG OR ALONE. THEY NEED SUPPORT, UNDERSTANDING. WE HAVE TO HELP HER.





THIS IS A BAG AND TAG SITUATION, MEREDITH.

SHE CAN'T STAY HERE NOAH, HER AUNT IS TERRIFIED OF HER, THIS TOWN IS TOO SMALL. WE HAVE TO GET HER OUT OF HERE.

THE ONLY THING WE *HAVE* TO DO IS FOLLOW ORDERS. BAG. WIPE. TAG. PUT HER BACK. PERIOD.



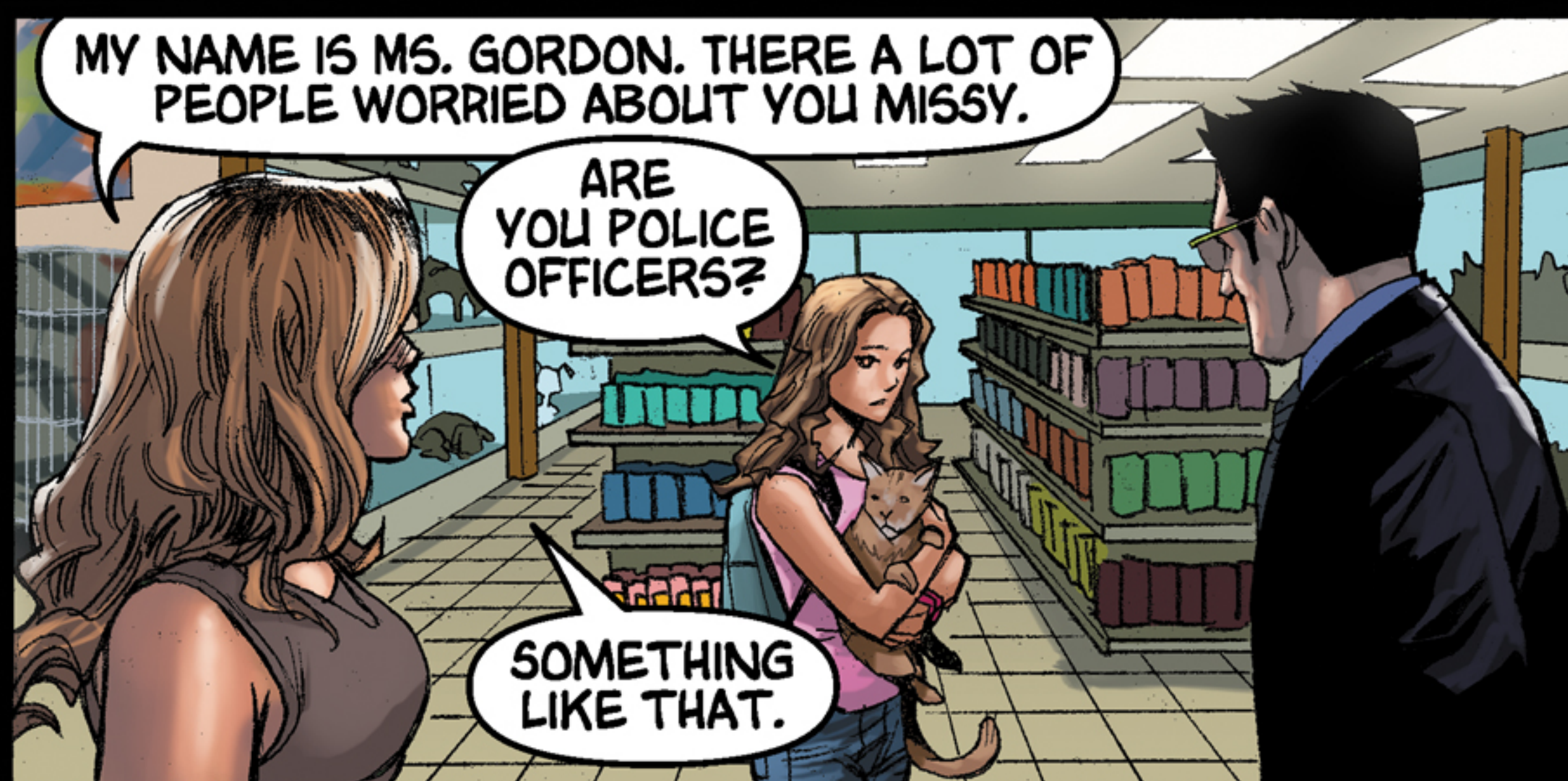
A PET STORE?

A HUNCH. I UNDERSTAND YOUR GUILT, AND BELIEVE ME, I KNOW IT'S TOUGH NOT TO LOOK AT EVERY FACE AS CLAIRE'S, BUT YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT THIS *ISN'T* CLAIRE, IT'S...



...AMANDA?

Y-YES?



MY NAME IS MS. GORDON. THERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT YOU MISSY.

ARE YOU POLICE OFFICERS?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THERE?

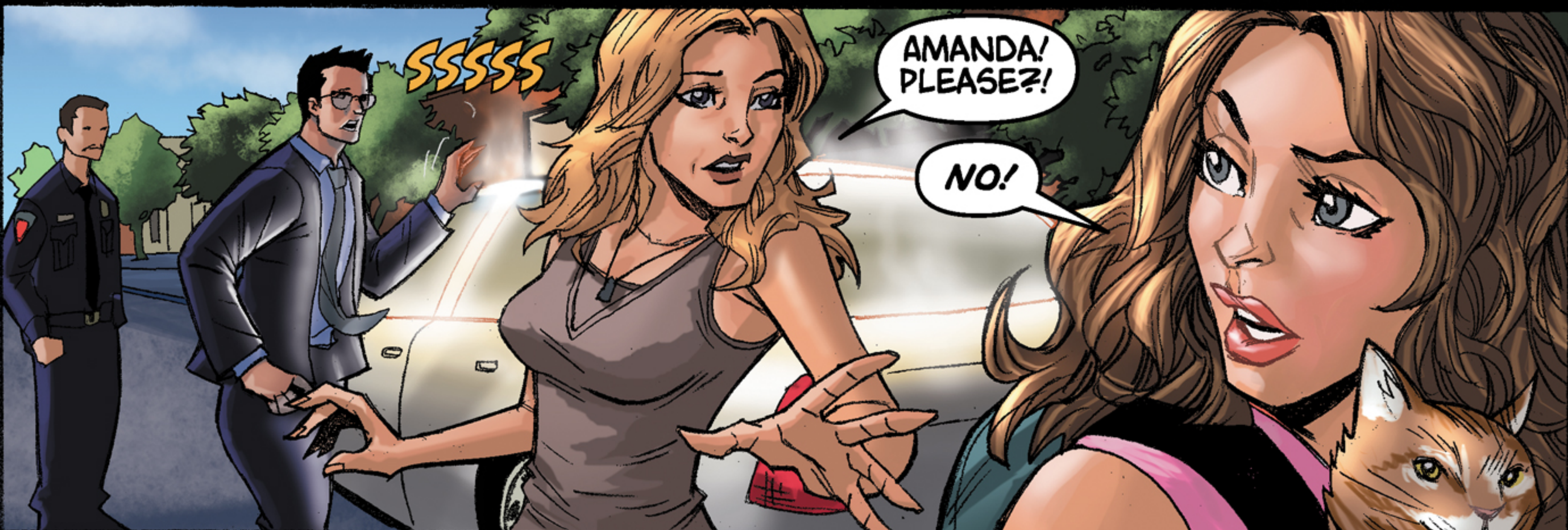
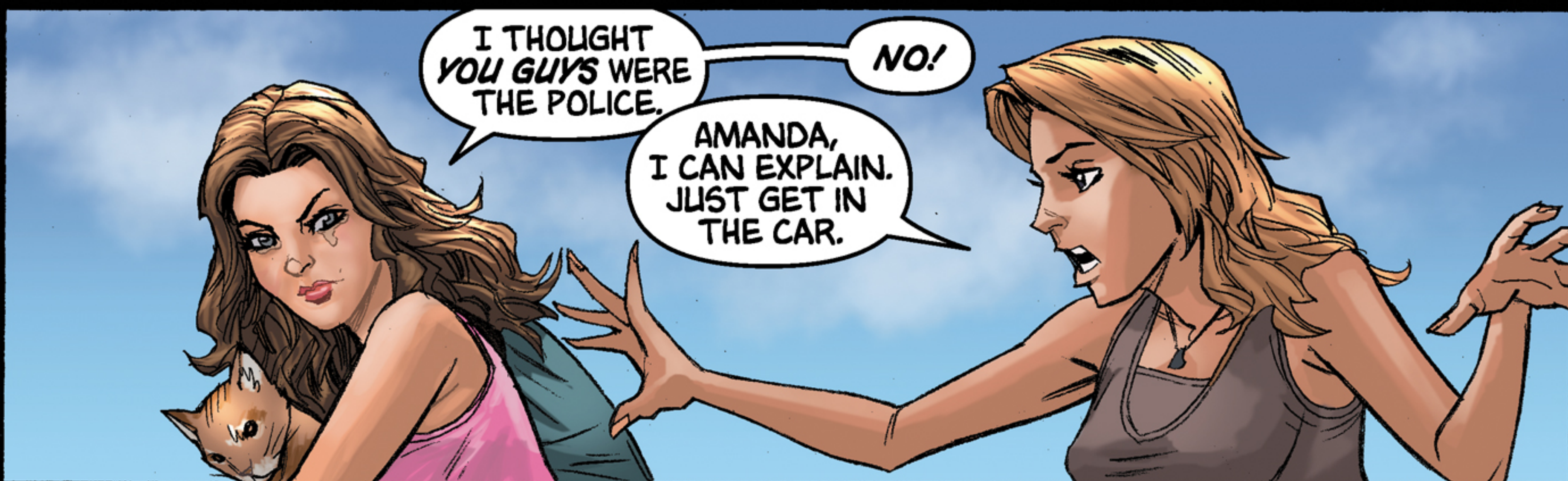
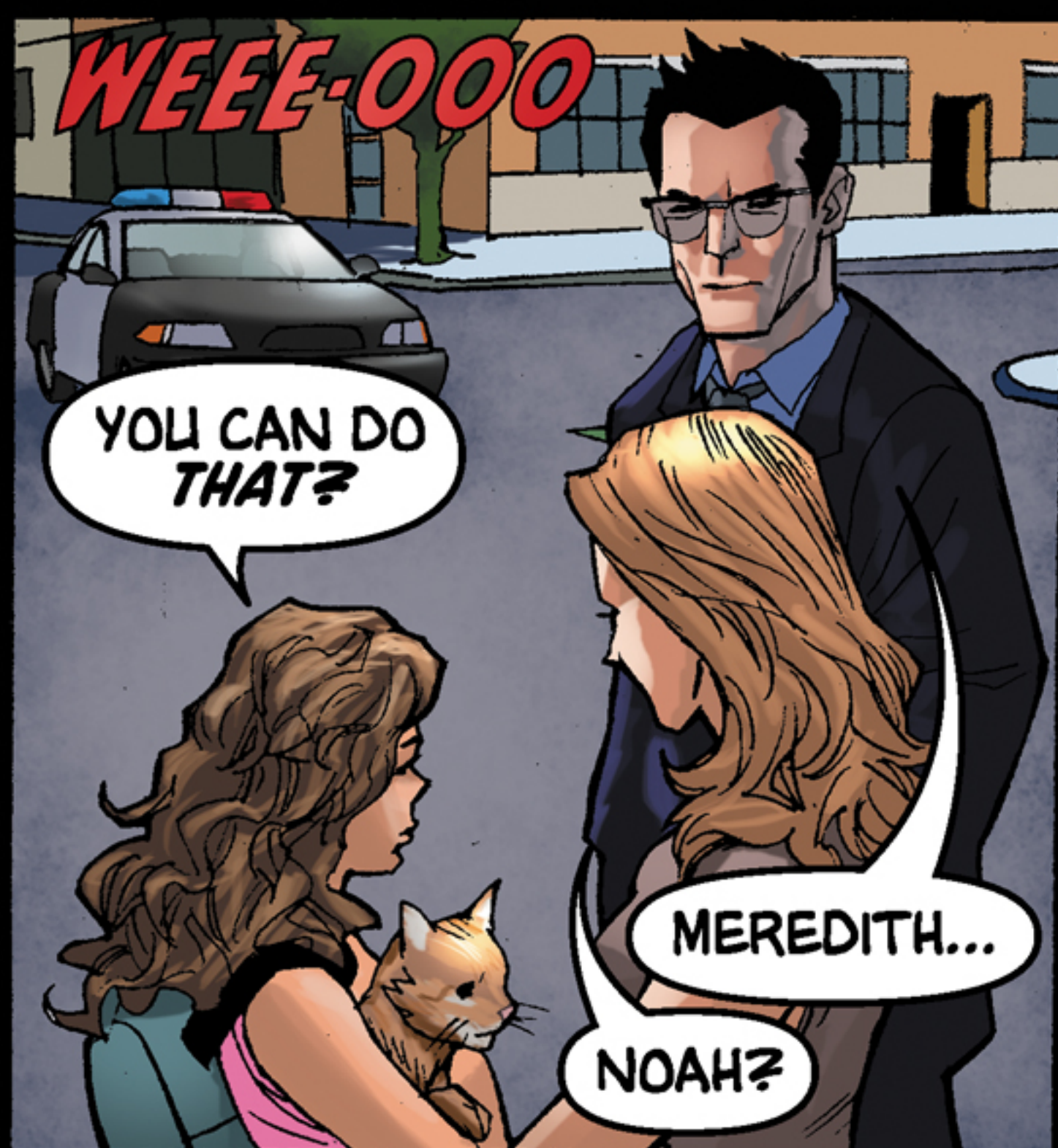
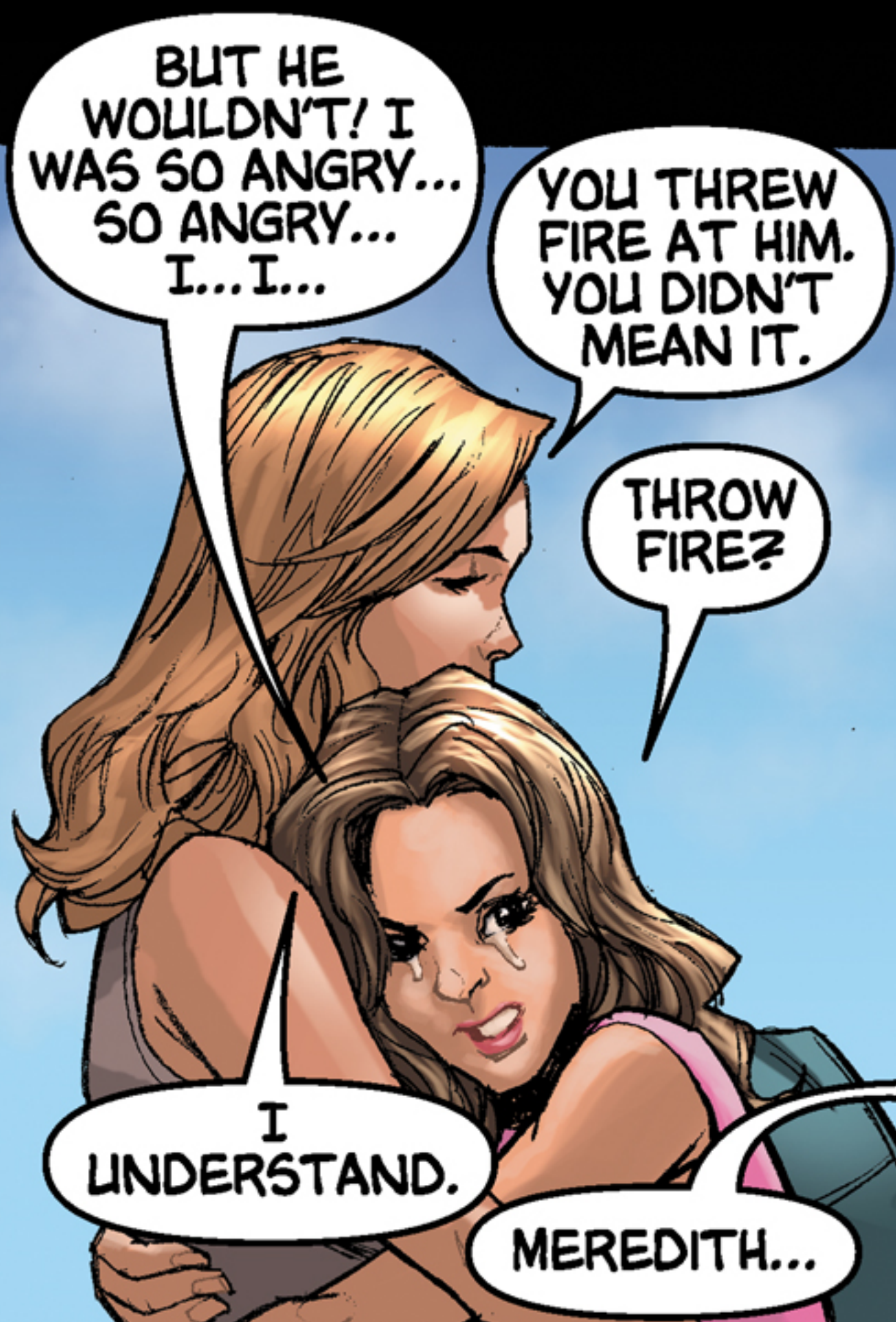
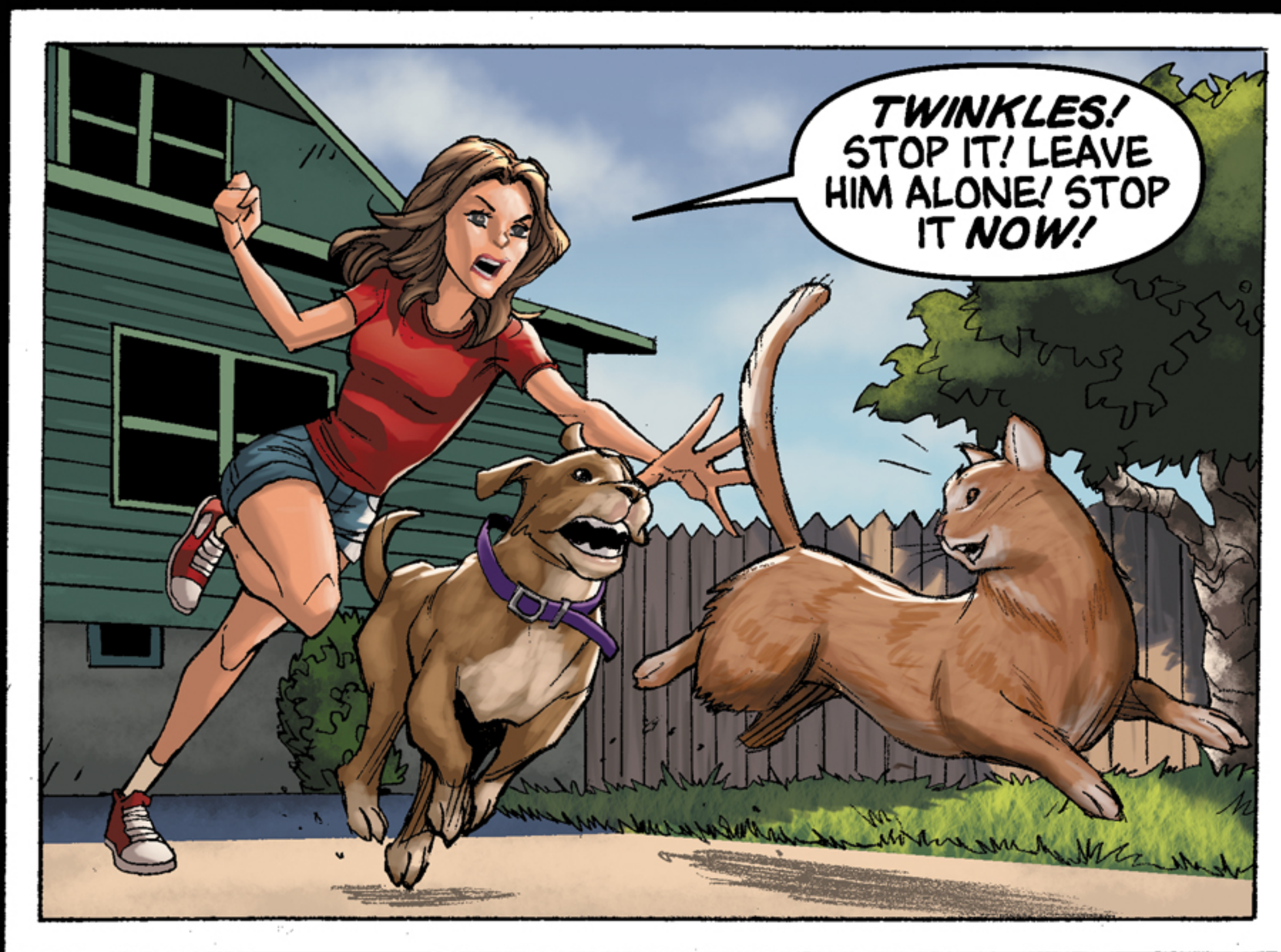
I WAS TRYING TO SELL IGGY, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO TWINKLES... I-I...

WHAT HAPPENED WITH TWINKLES AMANDA?



I DON'T... I DIDN'T MEAN IT! TWINKLES JUST WOULDN'T LEAVE IGGY ALONE...





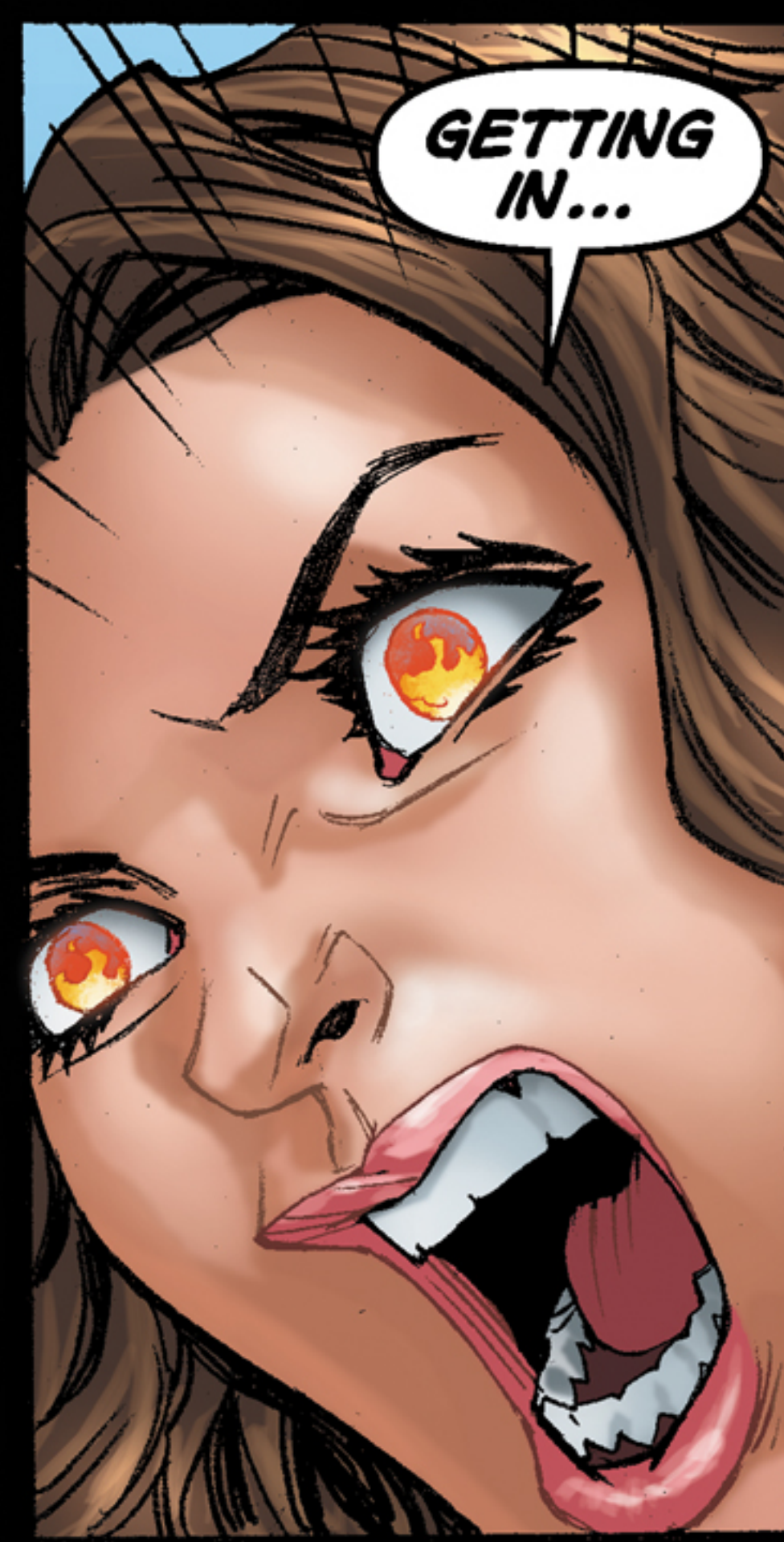




I AM NOT...



SHE ISN'T LIKE YOU, MEREDITH...



GETTING IN...



GET DOWN!

# BOOOM

THAT CAR!

FOZ McDERMOTT RYAN ODAGWA COMICRAFT  
*Writer Art Lettering*  
An ASPEN MLT INC. Production







HOLY SH... YOU OKAY?

...I THINK... THAT WAS AMANDA?

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION. TOLD YOU SHE WASN'T LIKE YOU.



...AND I TOLD YOU SHE WAS JUST A SCARED LITTLE GIRL... WHERE IS SHE?

GOT HER.



NOAH! DON'T!

IT'S A TOUGH SHOT ANYWAY... WE HAVE TO GO AFTER HER.

BEEEEEEEEEEEP



LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE BIGGER FISH TO FRY.

RED ALERT:  
Level 5  
Compromised.  
Situation FUBAR.  
All agents  
report to HQ  
immediately.

BEEEEEEEEEEEP



SCARIER FISH ANYWAY.

SO, WE'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE HER... BY HERSELF?

DUTY CALLS. WE'LL BE BACK. BESIDES...



...SOMETIMES YOU NEED A LITTLE FAITH.

PURRRRRRRRRRRRR